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Title:
Comments: To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter to express that my family and I vehemently OPPOSE Grand Targhee Resort's new MDP in all forms.

We have been Teton Valley residents for over 20 years and have been season pass holders at Grand Targhee most of that time, until recently, when prices increased drastically. We have enjoyed all that this beautiful has to offer and have been able to place roots and call this place home. While the valley certainly has changed during our residency here, and future change is an inevitable fate, we cannot see any positive benefit of Grand Targhee's proposed expansion onto public land or its existing footprint on Freds mountain.

We do not want our public land to be absorbed into GTR's special use permit. Public land is a precious resource and citizenship right that we want to see preserved for generations to come. many more people will benefit from generations of preserved public land than the few that have the time and disposable income for a ski vacation. GTR's footprint already extends beyond its current boundary in the form of trash, wildlife harassment, watershed damage, and, more recently, incursion onto public land to provide a wildfire buffer for private home development on private land at the base area. If GTR is allowed to expand, so too will this extra footprint.

We do not want to see ski lifts while hiking in the Jedediah Smith Wilderness, or in Grand Teton National Park. We want our kids and their kids to be able to savor, experience and learn from these scenic, spiritual vistas the same as we have. We want our children to see the stars or Aurora Borealis at night, not lights from on mountain restaurants or private jets.

We want to see GTR flourish as a place where a family can afford a lifetime of recreational enjoyment on our public lands. We don't want to see it, or the land of Teton Valley, sold to the highest bidder. National Forest is "The Land of Many Uses" for ALL people. An expansion approval for GTR will equate to higher cost for access, effectively denying access to public land for many would be users. You can already see today how GTR is posturing to cater to the wealthier guests in the form of private lunch and changing rooms for Tributary residents. This is unacceptable as is and will only continue if expansion is approved.

GTR was founded as a way to lift Teton Valley's economy out of economic depression. 56 years later GTR has still failed in this original objective. Many residents commute to Teton County, WY for reliable, sufficient incomes. GTR may provide jobs for Teton Valley, but they are not well paying enough still 56 years later to sustain a living in the area. It is HIGHLY doubtful this will change if expansion is approved.

Housing prices in Teton Valley are up 192%, according to GTR's website "Future Vision". GTR places blame on a boom in long term rentals being converted to short term rentals. GTR is a major reason this has happened in recent years. The proposed expansion has already driven capitalist investors to this area looking to cash in on a real estate boom after Targhee becomes a major destination ski resort. This will benefit only a few individuals and will be detrimental to existing residents and future generations. The irony is that this already happened in Teton County, WY. We don't need it to happen again on this side of the Tetons.

GTR proposing they need a lift in the South Bowl area to help guests from getting lost from the top of Colter Lift on Peaked Mountain is probably the most outrageous claim of all. GTR has had since 1998 to plan their safety protocol for that boundary and if guests are getting lost, then GTR is failing to safely maintain that boundary line and needs to readjust their protocol, backcountry gate placements, signage etc. That is not a problem that all

citizens of this great country should lose their access to that public land or their uninterrupted vistas, and soundscapes from avalanche bombs echoing down canyon, for generations to come. A lift in the South Bowl area will not offer any different scenic viewpoint of the Grand Teton or surrounding peaks than can been seen from the Colter Lift on Peaked Mountain. We feel this argument is also a moot point from GTR.

The Mono Trees are headwaters of Mill Creek and ultimately Teton Creek. We fail to see how GTR will responsibly manage silt, sediment, erosion, pollution etc. of this watershed that feeds agriculture, livestock, and public drinking water downstream. Proposed additional snowmaking is of concern to water rights holders downstream and those water rights must have priority over non-natural snow production for recreational skiers.

We really feel strongly that GTR can improve its skier experience by regentrifying its current base area to modern standards, expanding dining and lodging options at the existing base area, and even add additional beginner to intermediate ski terrain within its existing special use permit area and more so on the private land at the base area. GTR needs to "better, better, better" the private land they own first before any further acquisition of public lands should even be considered.

Teton County, Idaho will bear the undue brunt of traffic, resource destruction, wildlife destruction, and strain on public services and first responders/emergency services. GTR has made no plan or concession to account for this as they are seated in Teton County, Wyoming. It has been mathematically shown that Teton County, Idaho cannot and will not be able to afford the added necessary infrastructure to support GTR's expansion.

Most importantly: THE MAJORITY of citizens and elected local officials are opposed to the expansion. We implore you: PLEASE LISTEN AND REPRESENT THE WILL OF THE MAJORITY OF PEOPLE, not the greedy, selfish desires of the few. Let Democracy shine. Once our public lands are gone, they will never come back. For my children's sake and their children's sake, save it while you still can.

We thank you for your time and consideration, and we are hopeful you will deny GTR any expansions onto public lands and preserve them and in turn the surrounding area for generations upon generations to enjoy.